

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims without prejudice, without admission, without surrender of subject matter, and without any intention of creating any estoppel as to equivalents, as follows.

In the Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A solid soap preparation in the form of sheets or strips comprising a soap,

at least one film- or backbone-forming polymer selected from the group consisting of polyamides, polyacrylates, polyamino acids, polyvinyl acetate, polyvinyl alcohol, polyethylene glycols, polyvinylpyrrolidones, pullulan, alginic acid and mixtures thereof, and

air bubbles,

wherein the thickness of said solid soap preparation does not exceed 5 mm and the preparation has a dissolution time in an aqueous medium of less than 15 seconds.

2. (Original) The soap preparation as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that it is elastic and plastic.

3. (Previously Presented) The soap preparation as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the soap is a substance from the group consisting of water-soluble sodium, potassium or ammonium salts of saturated or unsaturated higher fatty acids, of resin acids of colophony, of naphthenic acids, of surfactants and mixtures thereof.

4. (Previously Presented) The soap preparation as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the film- or backbone-forming polymer is polyvinyl alcohol.

5. (Previously Presented) The soap preparation as claimed in claim 4, characterized in that the film- or backbone-forming polymer is polyvinyl alcohol that is partially hydrolyzed, with a degree of hydrolysis of between 80 and 95%.

6. (Previously Presented) The soap preparation as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the soap is a foam former.
7. (Previously Presented) The soap preparation as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the air bubbles constitute 0.5 to 98% of the volume of the soap preparation.
8. (Previously Presented) The soap preparation as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that it has a density between 1 and 0.05 g/cm³.
9. (Previously Presented) The soap preparation as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that it has a density between 0.7 and 0.1 g/cm³.
10. (Previously Presented) The soap preparation as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the expandability is less than 25%.
11. (Previously Presented) A method of producing a solid soap preparation of claim 1, comprising the steps:
 - a) mixing of soap and at least one film- or backbone-forming polymer in water,
 - b) stirring this aqueous mixture in the presence of air whereby air bubbles are introduced into the aqueous mixture giving a foamy mass,
 - c) placing the foamy mass onto a weblike support in a thickness of less than 5 mm,
 - d) transporting the foamy mass into a drying tunnel where drying takes place and water is removed and during which the solid soap preparation is formed.
12. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 11, characterized in that an additional compression step is performed after the drying step.
13. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 11, characterized in that the resulting solid soap preparation is divided into individual doses by means of by cutting lengthways, cutting crossways and/or punching.

14. (Previously Presented) A method of cleaning a surface selected from the group consisting of body, face, hair and hand which comprises:
- contacting the solid soap preparation of claim 1 with water,
 - allowing the solid soap preparation to dissolve in said aqueous medium within a dissolution time of less than 15 seconds, and
 - applying the resultant composition to said surface.
15. (Previously Presented) The soap preparation as claimed in claim 6, characterized in that the soap is a surfactant.
16. (Previously Presented) The soap preparation as claimed in claim 10 characterized in that the expandability is between 2 and 10%.
17. (Previously Presented) The soap preparation of claim 1, wherein the thickness is between 100 μm and 2 mm.
18. (Cancelled)
19. (Currently amended) The soap preparation of claim 1 ~~claim 18~~, wherein the preparation has a dissolution time in an aqueous medium of less than 5 seconds.
20. (Previously Presented) The soap preparation of claim 5, having a density of between 0.7 and 0.1 g/cm^3 , an expandability between 2 and 10%, a thickness between 100 μm and 2 mm and a dissolution time in an aqueous medium of less than 15 seconds.
21. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 11 whereas the drying step is carried out until the residual water content in the solid soap preparation is less than 10% by weight.
22. (Previously Presented) The soap preparation as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the air bubbles have a size of less than about 100 μm .

23. (Previously Presented) The soap preparation as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that it further comprises at least one member selected from the group consisting of refatting agents, skin protectants, skin care agents, fragrances, essential oils, foam boosters, glycerol, polyols, matting agents, stabilizers, antioxidants, dyes, antimicrobial additives, exfoliants and disinfectants.
24. (Previously Presented) The soap preparation as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that it further comprises at least one cosmetic active ingredient which is at least one substance selected from the group consisting of skin oils, skin care agents and skin protectants.
25. (Previously Presented) The soap preparation as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that it is free from preservatives and/or antimicrobial additives.
26. (Previously Presented) The soap preparation as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that it comprises a linear alkylsulfonate (LAS) with an alkyl length of 10-13 carbon atoms.
27. (Previously Presented) The soap preparation as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that it comprises sodium laureth sulfate.
28. (Previously Presented) The soap preparation as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that it is a single-use portion containing a predosed amount of soap.
29. (Previously Presented) The soap preparation as claimed in claim 5, characterized in that it is free from preservatives and/or antimicrobial additives, the air bubbles have a size of less than 30 μm , it comprises a linear alkylsulfonates (LAS) with an alkyl length of 10-13 carbon atoms, wherein the linear alkylsulfonate is sodium laureth sulfate.
30. (Previously Presented) The soap preparation of claim 15, wherein the surfactant is at least one selected from the group consisting of anionic surfactants, cationic surfactants, nonionic surfactants and amphoteric surfactants.

31. (Previously Presented) The soap preparation as claimed in claim 24, characterized in that the cosmetic active ingredient is selected from the group consisting of allantoin, aloe vera, panthenol, provitamin 5, vitamin E and mixtures thereof.